Feb.21. 2006 5:30PM PARKS KNOWLTON No.1178 P. 12

PAGE 12/14 * RCVD AT 2/21/2006 5:39:14 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/32 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:6783256603 * DURATION (mm-ss):02-56

REMARKS

I. Introduction

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 21, 2005 and the telephone discussion of February 9, 2006. This communication is believed to be a full and complete response to that Office Action, and incorporates the Examiner's suggestions therefrom, which were further clarified during the telephone discussion. Claims 2-29 were pending in the present application prior to entry of the present amendments. By the present Office Action claims 2-29 have been rejected.

By the present amendment, Claims 3-10, 17, 18, 21, 23, 28 and 29 have been canceled, Claims 2, 11, 12, 16, 19 and 20 have been amended, and Claims 30-33 have been added. Claims 2, 11-16, 19-20, 22, 24-27 and 30-33 remain in the application upon entry of the present amendment. Support for these amendments can be found in the original specification, and thus, no new matter has been added. Applicant reserves the right to pursue all original claims in this or other patent applications.

Because the present amendments (1) do not raise new issues requiring further consideration or search, (2) do not introduce new matter, (3) materially reduce the issues for appeal, and (4) place this application into better condition for allowance, entry is appropriate under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, and is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and in view of the following remarks, which establish that the pending claims are directed to allowable subject matter.

II. SUMMARY OF THE AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Claims 1, 3-10, 17, 18, 21, 23, 28 and 29 have been canceled.

Claims 2, 11, 12, 16, 19 and 20 have been amended.

Claims 30-33 have been added.

Feb.21. 2006 5:30PM PARKS KNOWLTON No.1178 P. 13

PAGE 13/14 * RCVD AT 2/21/2006 5:39:14 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/32 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:6783256605 * DURATION (mm-ss):02-56

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS

It is believed that the amendments to the claims overcome the rejections in the Final Office Action, as described in more detail below.

IV. EXAMINER INTERVIEW

The undersigned would like to thank Examiner D'Agosta for the telephone interview of February 9, 2006 wherein the outstanding issues were discussed. Specifically, Examiner D'Agosta explained his suggestion for combining the elements of certain claims to overcome his rejections.

Specifically, in the Final Office Action, Examiner D'Agosta indicated that a "more favorable outcome may occur if the applicant amended claim 1 with claim 4, claim 6 or 7 or 8, and claim 9 or 10. 1 + 4 + (6 or 7 or 8) + (9 or 10)." Office Action at ¶ 2. During the interview, it was agreed that the intended formula was 2 + 4 + (6 or 7 or 8) + (9 or 10), because Claim 1 had previously been canceled.

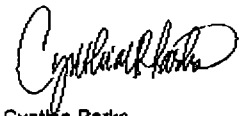
To conform with the Examiner's suggestion, the Applicant has amended Claims 2 and 16 to reflect the variant [2 + 4 + (6 or 8) + 10], has added new Claims 30 and 32 to reflect the variant [2 + 4 + (6 or 8) + 9], and has added new Claims 31 and 33 to reflect the variant [2 + 4 + 7 + 10].

It is believed that the amendments made herein fall within the scope of the discussion and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

V. CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the claims pending in this case and issuance of a patent containing these claims in due course. Should Examiner D'Agosta believe that a further telephone conference would be useful to resolve any concerns and move this application to allowance, Examiner D'Agosta is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. Otherwise, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Feb. 21. 2006 5:30PM PARKS KNOWLTON No. 1178 P. 14

PAGE 14/14 * RCVD AT 2/21/2006 5:39:14 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/32 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:6783256605 * DURATION (mm-ss):02-56